

WYCOMBE Wanderers face one of their most important games of the season tomorrow (Saturday) when they visit the club immediately below them in Division One of the Rothmans Isthmian League, Dagenham.

And the Blues should have the services of their flying midfield player Mick Holifield, who missed last Tuesday's 3-0 win over Croydon after damaging knee ligaments in the F.A. Cup tie against Reading. Mick could have played in an emergency on Tuesday but manager Ted Powell decided to give him a complete rest to allow the injury time to heal.

Wanderers know full well the task ahead tomorrow and they also know that a win at Victoria Road on New Year's Day would set them up for the second half of the season.

For the first time in recent years there are no runaway leaders in the league and any one of half a dozen clubs must fancy their chances of lifting the title.

Dagenham are certainly leading contenders, having fought their way to the top of the table a week ago only to be deposed by the Blues after their win over Croydon.

DEVELOPMENTS

The 'Daggers' have always been one of the top clubs in the Isthmian League and their 'go-ahead' attitude, which includes massive new developments at their ground, suggests they are a team of the future.

They have the added advantage of a victory over Wycombe already this

season. They came to Loakes Park on September 4 and clinched a 2-1 triumph with Kenny Gray and Norman Welch scoring their goals in the first 17 minutes. Ian Pearson pulled one back from the spot but generally Wanderers disappointed on the day.

It must be said, however, that Howard Kettleborough was not in action for the Blues on that day, and the big striker has certainly made a difference to Wycombe's fortunes this

season. Peter Spittle was also in goal for the injured John Maskell at the time.

The scorer of one of Dagenham's goals, Welch, is unlikely to play tomorrow. The big centre half has been out recovering from a cartilage operation for much of the season and his place has been taken by Willie Currie, a former player with Queens Park in Scotland. He is no relation to Paul Currie, Dagenham's left back.

TOP MARKSMAN

The only other change from the side that won at Loakes Park sees Terry Harris come in for Gray, who may be substitute. Harris, a reserve last year, has 10 goals to his credit this season but top marksman is Mal Harkins with 13.

Dagenham's recent performances suggest Wanderers will have their work cut out tomorrow. They were leading 1-0 at Enfield recently only to be pulled back to 1-1 when Dennis Moore put through his own net in the last five minutes.

At present, Wanderers are a point clear of Dagenham at the top but the chief danger to both clubs appears to be coming from Enfield who have leapt up the table in recent weeks. They have four games in hand.

Latest table

ROTHMANS ISTHMIAN LEAGUE DIVISION ONE

P W D L F A Pts

(up to and inc. 28/12/76)

Wycombe	24	14	4	6	38	21	46
Dagenham	24	13	6	5	40	22	45
Enfield	20	11	7	2	27	17	40
Tooting	25	11	5	9	51	45	38
Hitchin	17	11	3	3	26	16	36
Leatherhead	21	11	2	8	32	21	35
Tilbury	21	11	2	8	23	22	35
Sutton	22	10	4	8	31	29	34
Walthamstow	22	10	3	9	29	29	33
Leytonstone	20	9	5	6	31	25	32
Bishops	21	9	4	8	31	26	31
Slough Town	20	9	4	7	28	24	31
Hendon	21	8	3	10	28	30	27
Croydon	20	7	5	8	17	22	24
Hayes	21	7	3	11	23	33	24
Staines	18	6	5	7	16	18	23
Barking	20	7	2	11	22	29	23
Woking	20	6	4	10	24	28	22
Southall	21	6	4	11	31	38	22
Dulwich	22	4	6	12	26	38	18
Kingstonian	20	4	4	12	20	32	16
Ilford	20	2	4	14	9	37	10